

***“I Just Can’t Do This!” --
a look at 1 Corinthians 10:13***

Did you ever wonder why God commands so many things of His people? Do this, don't do that. Living by this “rules” has made legalists of many well-intended believers. So the church of today wants “no rules”, just the ‘rule of love’, which translated means, ‘I want to choose which of God’s commands I obey, but I sure expect His blessings, His peace, His stamp of approval! He’s promised you know? I’m holding His feet to the fire!’ What a crummy attitude!

I Cor. 10:14, Paul commands the believer to “flee idolatry”. Idolatry is paying divine honor to any created person or thing.

But how can we do this? I Cor. 10:13 is often quoted as God’s promise in temptation, and it is. But in order to be fully understood, we need to see it in its context.

Flashback to I Cor. 10:1-4. Israel has the privileges: guidance, protection, fellowship with God. But God was displeased (verse 5) They were punished because they abused the liberty they already had. Doesn’t sound like just rules here. There was a purpose. And they blew it! But what is that to you? Verse 6 tells us that “..these things happened that we should not crave evil things, as they also craved.” They wanted “stuff” (verse 7). They were immoral (verse 8). They had a ‘How far can I go and still be an Israelite’ attitude. They complained (verse 10). “Church is boring”, “These Christians aren’t acting like Christians”, “Why can’t I do this and still be a Christian?”, “Why so many rules?”

This was written to us “.. for our instruction.” (verse 11). Do you think everything’s okay with your Christian walk? You’ve arrived? Watch out! When you think you’re standing, you’re in for a fall! (see Proverbs 16:18).

But remember I Cor. 10:13. No earthly temptation is more powerful than God. You’re not the first Christian tempted. God is in control. He will show you a way of escape (the flashing yellow light before the red light). He’ll be there through the temptation (which isn’t sin), but you will be tempted. So now, flee idolatry (any thing or any person that takes your attention off of serving Him). Is it the Internet? A guy or girl who’s not really living for Christ? Busyness in church? .. even pro-life work! Who’s first in your life? Are you avoiding Israels mistakes?

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